

February 22, 2017

Nancy Mendez
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Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee, Senator Catherine Osten, Senator Paul Formica and Representative Toni Walker.

I am a resident of the City of Hartford, a taxpayer, and a parent of two students, one graduating Senior of a very successful District School and a 5th grader at Montessori Magnet @Moylan/McDonough.

My family's experience in the magnet school system has been one of great successes, my younger son has had the opportunity to grow socially and academically in a diverse environment that has encouraged his inquiring mind and interest for science and history. My son, is happy with the opportunity to make friends that live blocks or miles away, they share a common ground in their classroom. They do not feel isolated from opportunities available to more affluent communities, because the magnet schools can offer an open door to success and a vision for their future.

My son is supported in all aspects of his learning with quality educators, administrators and staff. He is encouraged to move forward in his strong subjects and helped when he falls short in his ability to grasp a concept without judgment. I strongly believe that all children should be afforded such great education.

I believe that offering the best education to all children is their right, magnet schools in Connecticut are changing lives every day but schools cannot do it alone. I ask that you, as members of the Appropriations Committee will consider a continued sustainable financial support to our schools.

Thank you for your continued support and for your time to listen to my family's story.

Sincerely,

Nancy Mendez